

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C. www.newriver.usmc.mil

Sept. 7, 2005 Vol. 44 No. 18

NEW RIVER RESCUE



Station squadrons lead Corps effort to rush life-saving gear to victims of hurricane Katrina

SEE PAGE 3

DOG DAYS IN IRAQ



Station military dog handler awarded for dedicated service

SEE PAGE 10

MORE THAN A GAME



New River Football looks to erase last season's bad dream

SEE PAGE 18

'HONOR THE FALLEN'



SEE PAGES 14,15

Command Message

Station chaplains are conducting a special memorial service Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Chapel here.

The service is titled "One Nation Under God" and features choir members from numerous local churches.

There is no charge to attend. Call the Memorial Chapel at 449-6801 for more information about the service.

The Marine Aircraft Group-29 chaplains office is hosting a marriage seminar from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 16 and from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Memorial Chapel here.

The seminar is titled "Love, Sex and Marriage" and features guest speaker Joe Beam.

Tickets for the class usually cost \$60 but admission for servicemembers is free and there will be free child care provided on both days.

To register or to find out more about the seminar, call the MAG-29 chaplains office at 449-6866 or the Memorial Chapel at 449-6801.

Osprey Pioneers Memorial 5th Annual Fallen Friends 5K Road Race and One Mile Fun Run/Walk starts at 9 a.m. Sept. 17, at Maysville Elementary School.

To register online, visit <http://www.ecrr.us/FallenFriends5K/FallenFriends2005.pdf>.

Safety notes

Motorcycle Foundation Safety Courses are being conducted Sept. 22-23 in building AS-320, room 104 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call the Station Department of Safety and Standardization at 449-6675 or 449-5440 for more information about the classes.

The Station Department of Safety and Standardization needs active duty or Department

of Defense employees to teach the Motorcycle Foundation Safety Course.

Criteria includes at least two years remaining on Station, written command approval, have completed the beginner course, have a motorcycle endorsement, own a motorcycle, have a minimum of two years riding experience and meet the teaching requirement of one class per quarter.

For more information or to sign up, call Jesse Turner at 449-6676.

Weather information and flag conditions are available for viewing online at <http://weather.lejeune.usmc.mil>.

For more information, call the Station Department of Safety and Standardization at 449-6675.

Education

The local satellite campus of the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education is conducting a seminar in October to support students enrolled in the Expeditionary Warfare School or the Command and Staff distance education programs.

Seminars will meet here or Camp Lejeune one night per week for two to three hours, and vary in length from 31 to 34 weeks depending on the program.

For further information, phone DSN 751-9309 or e-mail james.r.wheeler.ctr@usmc.mil.

In the Corps

The deputy commandant for aviation is committed to aviation transition/conversion program. Marine Administrative Message 370/05 seeks applications from motivated professionals -- both naval aviators and naval officers -- who desire to broaden and challenge themselves by training for different aviation military occupation specialties.

Select individuals will facilitate the interchange of profession-

and tactical expertise within Marine Corps aviation, and assist Headquarters Marine Corps in balancing inventories in particular aircraft communities.

The transition/conversion board will meet on or about Dec. 7.

The transition/conversion program is offered to active duty officers with a minimum of two years time on Station and no less than one year commissioned service.

For more information, consult MARADMIN 370/05.

Marines magazine is soliciting sea stories to run in upcoming issues of the magazine. Only the best will be printed.

Stories should be first-hand and may be on any topic from the past or present -- the funnier the better.

Stories should be 250 words or less and include a point of contact, rank, unit and mailing address. They will be edited and run in upcoming issues of the magazine.

Send stories to mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil.

Out in town

Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department and Saltwater Surf Shop are hosting the "Fall Skateboard Competition" Oct. 8 at the Jacksonville Commons Skate Park.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m., and the contest starts 10:00 a.m.

There is a \$3 entry fee due in advanced and a \$5 fee to register the day of the event.

For more information or to register call 938-5303 or 577-7873 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Naval Hospital

The Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune will be under accreditation survey from Sept. 26 to 30.

The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the hospital's compliance with Navy and federal standards as well as the overall conditions.



Shon Sheka Reid

MCCS sales associate

Hometown: San Diego
Family: Husband and one son.

Occupation: Reid works as a Marine Corps Community Services sales associate at the Marine Corps Exchange on Station.

Military background: Reid has no record of military service.

Time on Station: She has worked here for about seven months.

Best part of job: She said the best part about her job is working with all the people at MCCS because they are nice and sweet.

Best part of working with the military: According to Reid, the best part about working with the military is getting to meet new and crazy people everyday.

Proudest accomplishment: Her proudest accomplishment was having her son. Her family is made up of one son, Zy'Shawn Nasir, who is two years old, and her husband, Eric Reid.

Best advice received: She said the best advice she ever received was "to keep your friends close, but your enemies closer."

Person whose lifestyle I'd like to emulate: Reid said she wouldn't want to live anyone else's life. She loves being herself.

Personal motto: Her personal motto is, "he who stands for nothing falls for anything."

Heroes: She said she is her own personal hero.

Where were you when terrorists attacked the World

Trade Center: Reid said she was asleep at home during the 9-11 attacks.

Last words: "I love you, Zy'Shawn."



Commanding Officer
Col. Stephen L. Forand

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Stuart J. Fugler

Executive Officer
Vacant

Public Affairs Chief
Master Sgt. Phil Mehringer

Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. Lewis Summerville

Editor
Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

HMH-461 (-) rein. aids in Katrina relief

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA, Fla. -- The Marines and Sailors of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 (-) rein. continue to work in support of Joint Task Force Katrina, the large-scale relief effort to help citizens of the gulf coast left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.

HMH-461 (-) rein. includes personnel, equipment and helicopters from both HMH-464 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-365. The squadron consists of six CH-53E Super Stallions and two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters. It deployed from Marine Corps Air Station New River on Sept. 1.

"From our perspective, the mission so far has been quite successful," said Lt. Col. Robert D. Pridgen, HMH-461 (-) rein. commanding officer. "The Marines and Sailors on the ground really understand the intent of this disaster relief, so they have made some remarkable strides in getting food and water onto the helicopters so we can get it where it needs to go."

According to Sgt. Maj. Larry C. Jones, HMH-461 (-) rein. sergeant major, the Marines always look forward to doing this kind of humanitarian work.

"They know they are doing it for a worthy cause," he said. "It's hard work, but they know it's important to take care of these people."

The heavy-lift capabilities of the squadron's CH-53E's have been put to use in

bringing thousands of pounds of food and water to the devastated city of New Orleans.

"It's unreal. You never expect to see stuff like that," said Cpl. Angelo C. Castelli, HMH-461 crew chief. "To see houses underwater and people driving around downtown New Orleans in boats, I couldn't believe it."

Along with bringing in the much-needed supplies, the squadron has played a vital role in the evacuation of the area surrounding the city's convention center, where thousands of people congregated to escape the floodwaters. HMH-461 (-) rein. was among the first to begin bringing the elderly, sick and young victims of the hurricane to New Orleans International Airport, where medical crews were waiting to provide immediate attention.

"There is a sadness that comes with doing this type of mission," said Jones. "These people have no home to go back to. Their life is in the bags they are carrying."

However, Pridgen said he noticed most of the evacuees have a strong determination to survive and the relief in their eyes as they come aboard the helicopters has stuck with



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Corporal Richard C. Hughes, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 crew chief, helps a New Orleans resident toward a waiting medical technician at the New Orleans International Airport during Joint Task Force Katrina Sept. 2. Hughes is part of a unit of Marines dispatched to the Gulf coast to aid in hurricane relief efforts.

him.

"It has touched me," he said. "Everybody understands the urgency of this mission. Everyone is focused on what we need to do in the weeks, and perhaps, months to come."

Should this operation continue on indefinitely, the Marines of HMH-461 (-) rein. said they will continue to do all they can.

"I have no problem being here," said

Castelli. "If we are here for six months or a year, I'll know that we are helping other people's families. It's no big deal to be away from mine because it's for a good cause."

Sergeant Maj. Jones added, "We are here for as long as it takes to take care of these people. No Marine or Sailor will complain about being here. They know that every man, woman and child is worth the effort."

SPMAGTF Katrina heads south

Sgt. Tracee L. Jackson
24th MEU Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS -- Approximately 110 Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit Command Element arrived here Sept. 3 to set up a command and control center and support group to aid Joint Task Force Katrina.

These Marines now comprise the Special Purpose Marine Air/Ground Task Force Katrina, which is based at Naval Air Station Belle Chasse, La., 10 miles southeast of New Orleans.

While the city sits in ruins in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the MEU is taking slow, deliberate steps to make way for larger forces on the way with large-scale assistance for thousands of victims of the storm.

"Right now, the big effort is getting food, water, and the basic necessities of life to individuals. Security plays a role in that because we have to protect the assets that are used to conduct humanitarian assistance," said Maj. Devin C. Young, staff judge advocate of the 24th MEU.

"We started planning this on Thursday, and the command element came in Saturday. We were up and operational in less than 6 hours," he added.

"What we're involved in here is military support to civil authority," he continued, "that gives the president the authority to order federal forces to aid civilian agencies for disaster relief and humanitarian aid."

Staff Sgt. Miguel Rivera is the platoon sergeant and frequency manager for communications within the command element. He noted that although this is not a traditional war operation commonly associated with the Corps, it's not an unfamiliar call to duty.

As the command element proceeds to build, wire, and boot up a headquarters for humanitarian assistance, servicemembers hold a strong sense of purpose.

"We're coming in here because American citizens need us to come in and help them out. We, as the military, have the assets to do that, the president has decided to use that, so here we are. We're going to help this region out to overcome this major natural disaster," added Young.

Given the size and scope of relief efforts here, the Marines are ready for any mission they may be asked to complete.

"There was really no expectation; we just have to keep adapting. That's what Marines do," said Rivera.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Marines attached to Special Purpose MAGTAF Katrina board a C-9 prior to departing Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., for Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base Belle Chasse, La., outside of New Orleans. The Marines are acting as a command element to the Special Purpose MAGTAF supporting relief efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Joint Task Force Katrina is a multi-service support effort to assist victims of hurricane Katrina. Approximately 110 servicemembers comprise the force that will try and have a direct impact on the suffering masses of American citizens. In addition to the SPMAGTF, Marine Corps Air Station New River squadrons and support personnel are also conducting operations in and around the disaster area.

HMM-264 comes home

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

The “Black Knights” of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 returned home from an approximately seven month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom July 24.

“It feels great to be home,” said Sgt. Maj. Hayward Williams, HMM-264 sergeant major. “I was proud to see the unit perform successfully and bring everybody back home.”

According to Williams, the squadron not only proficiently executed its primary mission of assault support, but also “answered the call of anything that popped up.”

“In that environment, everything is up for grabs,” he said. “Anything from transporting VIPs to (casualty evacuation) missions.”

Hard work, dedication and strong leadership provided the foundation for the success of the squadron’s

deployment, said Navy Lt. Helen S. Hagan, HMM-264 flight surgeon.

“It was never easy, but the Sailors and Marines stayed motivated,” she said. “The leadership did a good job of keeping everyone focused on what needed to be done. Everyone really looked out for each other.”

Colonel Christopher S. Owens, Marine Aircraft Group-29 commanding officer, who attended the homecoming event welcoming HMM-264 into MAG-29 for the first time, said he believes the squadron has a right to be proud of its accomplishments.

“They did a great job over there and they handed off a great mission to their replacement,” he said. “We’re glad to have them back.”

The real reward is in seeing the results that come from working for a good cause, said Williams.

“The squadron came together as a team,” he said. “We really got better at what we do and will continue to learn from this experience.”



Advancement in MCMAP

Do you have what it takes?

Up to the challenge?

Level 1 - Tan Belt

*One week of training required.
*More than 95 percent of Station Marines are tan belt qualified.

To test for the gray belt, Marines must apply the fundamentals of martial arts, execute punches, execute falls and execute bayonet techniques.

Level 2 - Gray Belt

*One additional week of training is required beyond tan belt training.
*Soon, gray belt training will be required to be promoted to corporal.

To test for the green belt, Marines must execute bayonet techniques, upper body strikes, lower body strikes, chokes, hip throw, counters to strikes, unarmed restraints and other maneuvers learned in the gray belt training.

Level 3 - Green Belt

* Three additional weeks of training are required beyond gray belt training and Marines will be martial arts instructor qualified to train to the gray belt level.

To test for the brown belt, Marines must engage an opponent with the bayonet, execute muscular gouging, side choke, shoulder throw and other maneuvers learned in the green belt training.

Level 4 - Brown Belt

* Three additional weeks of training are required beyond green belt training and marines will be martial arts instructor qualified to train to the green belt level.

Level 5 - Black Belt

* Three additional weeks of training are required beyond brown belt training and Marines will be martial arts instructor qualified to train to the brown belt level.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Lieutenant Col. Chris Boyer, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269 executive officer, is welcomed home after a seven month deployment to Iraq Aug. 29 in a return ceremony at the squadron’s hangar.

‘Gunrunners’ bring back the heat HML/A-269 concludes successful tour

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

One hundred sixty-two “Gunrunners” from Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269 returned from Iraq Aug. 29 during a homecoming ceremony in the squadron hangar.

The Marines were deployed to for seven months in support of Operation Iraqi freedom and were relieved by HML/A-167 in mid August.

“Our mission was to provide close air support, convoy escort, armed reconnaissance and (medical evacuation) escort in support of the II Marine Expeditionary Force,” said “Gunrunner” Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Joseph M. Jeffrey, III.

“Flying just under 6,000 hours in six months, the performance of our Marines was nothing short of awesome. To have been part of this team is the highlight of my career.”

With their mission complete and the pressures of a successful deployment alleviated, the Marines received a hero’s welcome and look forward to enjoying the fruits of their labors.

“My plans are to go home, get a lot of rest and take my wife out,” said Sgt. Thomas Ornoski, HML/A-269 air frames and hydraulic mechanic. “Coming home after the trip we took has been a dream come true. It hasn’t even hit yet, I’m still a little stunned.”

“Coming home and seeing my girlfriend again was the best feeling in the world,” added Cpl. Garret Pellerzi, “Gunrunner” ordnance technician.

As for the future of the squadron, plans to combat the War on Terrorism continue.

“After some well deserved leave, the ‘Gunrunners’ will begin preparations for another deployment to Iraq next winter,” said Jeffrey.

Save a life, buckle your seat belt

SGLI coverage takes effect Sept. 1

Department of Defense
news release

The Department of Defense announced the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage increased to \$400,000 Sept. 1.

On that date, all members eligible for SGLI will automatically be insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

The monthly SGLI premium remains \$3.25 per \$50,000 of coverage, so the monthly premium for full coverage will be \$26 beginning in September 2005.

These changes will not affect coverage under Family SGLI, which will continue under previously existing elections.

A member, who wishes to retain the \$400,000 of coverage with beneficiary designations as before Sept. 1 does not need to take any action.

The \$400,000 of coverage will apply along with the new premiums and beneficiary designations will remain the same as those in effect before Sept. 1.

Even members, who had previously declined SGLI coverage or elected less than the maximum coverage, will automatically be covered for \$400,000 on Sept. 1.

If they wish to again decline or reduce the coverage, they must complete a new SGLV 8286 form (September 2005 version) indicating the amount of coverage desired including no coverage if applicable.

If the member properly completes and submits the form before Sept. 30, the member will not be liable for the September 2005, premium associated with the reduced or declined portion of coverage.

This gives members 30 days to reduce or decline unwanted coverage without charge.

Units will be asked to process elections as expeditiously as possible to avoid the necessity for corrections in financial transactions.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will refund premiums deducted for coverage in September, when the member files a valid election to reduce or decline the coverage between Sept. 1 to 30.

The new SGLV 8286 form will be available on the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at <http://www.insurance.va.gov> beginning Aug. 31.

Entries can be made on

See **SGLI** on page 6

SGLI, from page 5

the page and then downloaded. Valid SGLI elections become effective the first day of the month after properly submitting the election form. So, all members of the uniformed services will be fully insured for \$400,000 throughout the month of September 2005, regardless of any election filed before or during September 2005.

If a member dies in September after completing an election for reduced coverage or no coverage, the member’s beneficiaries will still receive a \$400,000 payment.

Those electing to decline or reduce coverage during September will essentially receive the September automatic coverage at no cost.

Members who do not make an election to reduce or decline coverage from the \$400,000 level before Oct. 1 will pay the premium for the full \$400,000 of coverage for September as well as for any other month in which the level of coverage remains in effect.

When a member properly completes and submits SGLV Form 8286 on or after Oct. 1 to reduce or decline coverage, the reduction is effective the first day of the month after the form is properly submitted.

Changes to SGLI program, such as an increase in the maximum level of coverage, are a matter of law.

This change was made in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (Public Law 109-13, May 11, 2005).

First sign of true ‘Patriots’

Pfc. Samuel D. White
correspondent

Approximately 47 Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 “Patriots” were welcomed home from Aug. 25 to Aug. 27 in a series of return ceremonies at the Marine Corps Family Team Building here.

The advance party deployed with MALS-26 in February in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gunnery Sgt. Daniel E. Dibona, a MALS-26 tiltrotor dynamic components mechanic and new father as of Aug. 24, said the squadron did a good job and accomplished their mission while deployed.

According to the MALS-26 mission statement, while in Iraq, the Marines provided aviation logistics support, guidance, planning and direction to Marine Aircraft Group squadrons as well as logistics support for Navy funded equipment in the supporting Marine Wing Support Squadron, Marine Air Control Group, and Marine Aircraft Wing/Mobile Calibration Complex.

In addition to their primary mission, the “Patriots” provided support for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264.

“Those Marines did a heck of a job out there,” said Master Sgt. Vernon D. Anderson, the MALS-26 maintenance chief. “They figured out the fastest and best way possible to fix problems which is what we need in a situation like that.”

According to Anderson, the Marines worked with supply to ensure that HMM-264 had working components for their helicopters. They frequently repaired rotor heads, rotor blades and electrical equipment along with many other parts.

The Marines who returned home are just a portion of the squadron that will eventually return next February.

According to Dibona, though it was difficult being away, they had a job to get done.

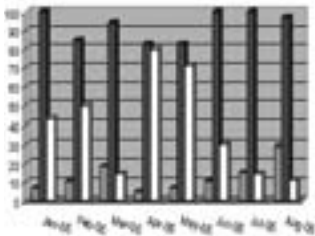
“It’s tough being over there and away from your family,” said Dibona.

“The best thing is to be able to come back to them safely and have the job done right.”



Pfc. Samuel D. White

Station ICE statistics



The Interactive Customer Evaluation system is a Web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided by various organizations throughout the Department of Defense.

Go to
http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=122.

Awards and Promotions

Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302

Promotions

Cpl. Abel
Cpl. Kleber
Cpl. Morgan
Cpl. Roberts
Lance Cpl. Howard
Lance Cpl. Johnson
Lance Cpl. Lattimore
Lance Cpl. Sherman
Lance Cpl. Twite

Air Medal

Staff Sgt. Reed
Sgt. Brown
Sgt. Cherrix
Sgt. Groff

Navy Achievement Medal

Cpl. Laughlin
Lance Cpl. Montgomery
Lance Cpl. Brooks III

Good Conduct Medal

Cpl. Howard
Lance Cpl. Renard

Certificate of Commendation

Cpl. Peter
Lance Cpl. Garcia

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Promotions

Gunnery Sgt. M. R. Morales
Gunnery Sgt. T. M. Padilla

Sgt. C. D. Kubeja
Cpl. R. S. Clagett
Cpl. J. D. Hart
Cpl. D. M. Hayes
Cpl. D. C. Honeycutt Jr.
Cpl. J. B. Peralta
Cpl. R. E. Wallace
Lance Cpl. F. A. Flynn
Lance Cpl. A. M. Gribben

Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269

Promotions

Sgt. E. J. Hanson
Sgt. C. A. Nelson
Cpl. J. C. Dickinson
Cpl. M. R. Jacobs
Cpl. I. G. Jasso

Cpl. J. J.Simonds Jr.
Cpl. M. E. Sims
Lance Cpl. M. E. Allen
Lance Cpl. P. M. Cline
Lance Cpl. J. L. Eggen
Lance Cpl. B. W. Garner
Lance Cpl. J. D. Shelton Jr.
Lance Cpl. C. A. Southern

Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training

Promotions

Sgt. J. D. Roseman
Lance Cpl. B. T. Charlier
Lance Cpl. R. F. Coonley III
Lance Cpl. C. M. Gunter
Lance Cpl. A. F. Martin
Lance Cpl. M. D. McCurdy
Lance Cpl. M. L. McKenna
Lance Cpl. W. Medinadiaz
Lance Cpl. M. A. Rees
Lance Cpl. J. T. Rodriguez
Lance Cpl. M. E. Sanchez
Lance Cpl. M. J. Shiver
Lance Cpl. J. P. Stone

Lance Cpl. P. Taing
Lance Cpl. M. C. Vermalen
Lance Cpl. R. T. Vonbuelow
Lance Cpl. J. C. Wells
Pfc. G. T. Davis
Pfc. R. Garciavega
Pfc. D. B. Krzan Jr.
Pfc. J. C. O’Neill

Marine Air Control Squadron 2, Detachment Bravo

Promotions

Sgt. W. P. Schwartz

Certificate of Commendation

Sgt. T. A. Sasse
Sgt. W. P. Schwartz
Cpl. F. Almanzer-Thomas
Cpl. G. Marquezortiz

Letter of Appreciation

Lance Cpl. G. J. Madera

See *PROMOTIONS* on page 11



courtesy photo

Lance Cpl. Patrick J. Steffa, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Military Police District traffic court liaison clerk, poses with Teso, the military working dog he served with in Iraq. According to a certificate Steffa received, the Secretary of the Navy awarded him the NAM for heroic achievement while serving as a dog handler for 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in Fallujah, Iraq, in support of Operation Al Fajr. With the support of seven other dog handlers, Steffa assisted in the clearing of an apartment complex that later served as the command and control center for the battalion. Steffa maintains that the award truly belongs to Teso and he only “held the leash.”

With military working dog in hand, Station Marine excels in Iraq

Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

Everyday Marines lay their lives in the hands of other Marines. Everyday they fight shoulder-to-shoulder, house-to-house or street-to-street without fear of being left behind. It’s called unit cohesion – a term used by Marines to explain the unrelenting trust they have in their fellow brothers-in-arms.

Lance Cpl. Patrick J. Steffa, a native of Philadelphia, said his experience in Iraq was somewhat different.

“Most Marines train for deployment alongside those they’ll be deploying with,” the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Military Police District traffic court liaison clerk said. “Not me. I was taken to Iraq as an individual augment. I had never trained with the Marines I worked with over there. It was just me and my dog, Teso.”

While in Iraq, Steffa’s job was to utilize his working dog to assist in mission searches for improvised explosive devices and weapon caches.

“At first we were involved in house-to-house searches but nearing the end of the rotation we were more involved with vehicle control points. That’s where we’d search vehicles for weapons and explosives,” Steffa explained.

Steffa was deployed to Iraq from September 2004 to May 2005. Upon his return, he was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal with a Combat “V” device.

According to the certificate Steffa received, the Secretary of the Navy awarded him the NAM for heroic achievement while serving as a dog handler for 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment in Fallujah,

Iraq, in support of Operation Al Fajr.

With the support of seven other dog handlers, Steffa assisted in the clearing of an apartment complex that later served as the command and control center for the battalion. While under constant direct and indirect enemy fire, his team cleared the facilities required to support the standup of all forward operational control centers.

According to Sgt. Robert G. Bowker, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., assistant kennel master and Toms River, N.J., native, from his personal observations and what he’s heard from others, he can think of nothing negative concerning Steffa.

“I’ve heard a lot of good things about him. He did great things in Iraq and I think he’s an awesome Marine.”

According to Steffa, his time in Iraq only helped to strengthen the friendship he shares with his dog.

“It’s almost like a father/son relationship because I take care of him, but he’s also my best friend,” Steffa said. “He helped me get through some really tough times. We’d be with a unit for two weeks at a time so we didn’t have the time to build many working relationships. Wherever I went, Teso went. Wherever I slept, Teso slept. I used him as a pillow when I didn’t have one and a blanket when it was cold. You’d better believe on the really cold nights Teso and I would both fit in that sleeping bag.”

Steffa said he feels like Teso deserves all the credit for their accomplishments.

“This is his award, I only held the leash,” Steffa said.

Just home from
deployment?
Better grab your ...
ROTOVUE

Station E-Club offers Hip Hop Night

Servicemembers can enjoy hot tracks, good music among friends

Pfc. Samuel D. White
correspondent

A fresh sound can be heard throughout New River most Friday nights. Its loud, fast-paced thunderous noise lures young Marines searching for a way to spend the first night of their weekend.

At the source of the energetic music - the Station Enlisted Club - where servicemembers and friends can escape the hassles of off-base clubs with their own Hip Hop Night.

The E-Club allows Marines to go to a club on base that is affordable, safe and has cabs outside waiting, said Sgt. Maj. Larry C. Jones, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 sergeant major and member of the E-Club committee.

Hip Hop Night at the E-Club has many advantages compared to the clubs or bars out in town by offering low admission rates, experienced disc jockeys with a large variety of music, a safe environment and a place where Marines can spend time meeting fellow servicemembers.

According to Cpl. Raymond D. MacMahon, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 CH-46E Sea Knight mechanic and vice president of the E-Club committee, the New River E-Club is one of few remaining in the Corps.

"Supporting (the E-Club) is tradition," said MacMahon. "Hip Hop Night is a place for Marines to go and kick back and not have to worry about being hassled."

Some of the advantages start at the door. Admission for females is free all night and is free for males until 10 p.m. After that, it's

only \$3 and all funds go back to Marine Corps Community Services.

According to Lance Cpl. Jonathan M. Myers, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air traffic controller and member of the E-Club committee, by coming to Hip Hop Night Marines won't have to pay outrageous admission fees or for \$7 to \$10 drinks.

Along with saving cash, Marines at Hip Hop Night are practicing safety. The E-Club provides a team of bouncers to discourage drunken violence in the club and has cabs waiting to ensure Marines get home safe after closing time.

"We have people sacrificing their Friday nights to make sure Marines have a good and safe time," said Sgt. Kristopher R. Poole, a MALS-29 CH-46E Sea Knight mechanic and president of the E-Club committee. "That all goes back to the tradition of Marines taking care of Marines."

But, beyond saving money and their own well being, coming to Hip Hop Night is also a good way to build camaraderie within a unit.

According to Poole, individual shops can benefit from these get-togethers.

"Events like this allow you to get to know your Marines during their personal time," said Poole. "It's nice to talk to them in casual conversation instead of barking orders all day."

To provide the casual atmosphere, Donnell "Master D. Collection" Davis, a civil service equipment operator, produces the beating heart of Hip Hop Night with his hot tracks. A disc jockey with 34 years



Pfc. Samuel D. White

Donnell "Master D. Collection" Davis, a civil service equipment operator, produces the beating heart of Hip Hop Night at the Station Enlisted Club with his hot tracks. A disc jockey with 34 years experience, Davis plays for both Hip Hop and Latin Night, but has a diverse collection of music and is open to requests. The Single Marine Program and E-Club are committed to providing all servicemembers a safe, friendly environment to unwind without having to spend too much money in town.

experience, Davis plays for both Hip Hop and Latin Night, but has a diverse collection of music and is open to requests.

According to Davis, he's happy to work Hip Hop Night and believes that Marines should come support their own club, instead of wasting money going downtown.

Hip Hop Night takes place on the second and fourth Friday of every month at the E-Club, located near the Marine Corps

Exchange, and, according to Myers, will become more frequent throughout the month. The doors open at 9 p.m. and close at 4 a.m.

"Marines should come here instead of going out in town because it's easy access, they don't have to drive through town afterwards and it's cheaper," said Kim Hudgins, the bar manager at the E-Club. "They should show support for their own club because this is a place they can call their own."

PROMOTIONS, from page 2

Good Conduct Medal

Master Sgt. P. Mehringer
Staff Sgt. A. Hawkins
Sgt. C. Bumgarner
Cpl. L. Bakale
Cpl. S. Hunter
Cpl. A. Stone
Cpl. S. Martin
Cpl. J. Olsen
Cpl. A. Warner
Cpl. Z. Zhao
Lance Cpl. S. Jones
Lance Cpl. S. Omine
Lance Cpl. B. Rome
Lance Cpl. R. Wallace

Marine Aircraft Group-29 Headquarters

Promotions

Cpl. R. A. Bunny
Cpl. L. E. Hines

ROTO VIEW

How have the high gas prices changed the way you live?



“I feel like selling my car and buying a motorcycle instead.”

Cpl. Charles H. Moss,
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29,
training noncommissioned officer,
Ilion, N.Y.



“I’ve had to cut back on the amount of leisure driving I do.”

Lance Cpl. Jack F. Rountree,
Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training,
airframes student,
Lyons, Ga.



“I won’t be making any more late night drives out to McDonalds or Taco Bell.”

Cpl. Terry L. Skinner,
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461,
crew chief,
Yuba City, Calif.

Book Review: ‘Flags of our Fathers’

Lance Cpl. Ezekiel R. Kitandwe
contributor

“Something unusual happened to these six men: history turned all its focus, for 1/400th of a second, on them. It froze them in an elegant instant of battle: froze them in a camera lens as they hoisted an American flag on a makeshift pole. Their collective image, blurred and indistinct yet unforgettable, became the most recognized, the most reproduced, in the history of photography.”

This is an excerpt from “Flags of Our Fathers” by James Bradley -- a book that chronicles one of the most important moments in American military history.

In this epic, just as a black box in a plane records a series of events before, during and after a crash, Bradley weaves together the events of six “flag raisers” before, during and after their enlistment. He captures the glory, human triumph and the heartbreak of the six men who in February 1945 raised the flag at Iwo Jima, thus bringing to life the true story behind the immortal photograph that has become an icon in America’s history.

The first chapter of the book starts with a son’s answer to a call of six boys on a distant mountain. Bradley abandons his day-to-day chores to make a pilgrimage to Mount Suribachi on the other side of the world, a place his father knew well.

Even as a kid, Bradley knew there was more to his father than the quiet church going, funeral home-owning man he had become. His father John ‘Doc’ Bradley, is one of the six flag raisers who survived and managed to live in peace and grow to see old age.

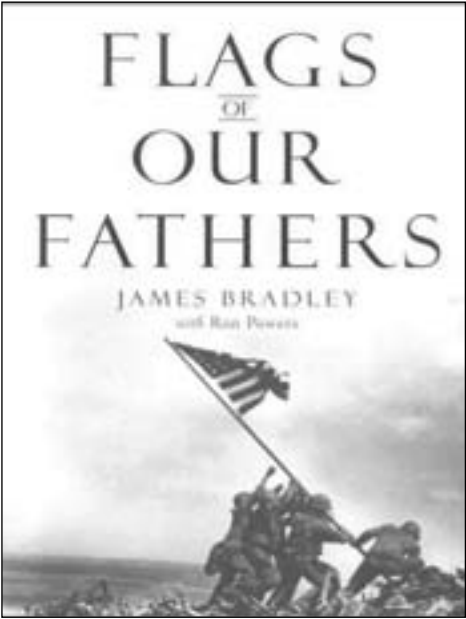
“Flags of our Fathers” is a good read for every Marine who has visited the Iwo Jima

monument or seen the picture and wonders about the history behind the men in the picture.

In his book, Bradley goes in depth, retracing the footsteps of the flag raisers. He explains why his father, a Navy Cross recipient, buried his past and never revealed to his family his heroic acts during the war.

He goes on to explain why the rest of the survivors were destroyed by the fame that the image had brought them.

Bradley not only reveals the lives of the six flag raisers, but he also explains the myth behind the picture of the flag raising, a moth-



“Flags of our Fathers” is a book that tells the story of the six flag raisers on Iwo Jima.

er’s call for her son’s recognition and the politics behind the famous image.

It’s no wonder that soon after the death of John ‘Doc’ Bradley, a Navy corpsman attached to the Marines, and the discovery of letters and memorabilia, that Bradley was compelled to retrace his fathers foot steps.

He does this by interviewing more than 300 veterans and brings to life a story that webs from the childhood of six flag raisers who came from all walks of life and were brought together not only by the melting pot that is the United States Armed Forces but by a special moment atop a mountain that would immortalize and change them forever.

However, in my opinion, the most interesting portion of this book is what happened after the victory. Three men in the photo were killed during the battle and flown home as heroes. For two of the survivors, the adulation was shattering, leaving Bradley’s father as the only one who truly survived, displaying no copy of the famous photograph in his home and telling his son, “The real heroes of Iwo Jima were the guys who didn’t come back.”

Did you like the stories on this page?

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Station honors fallen staff sergeant



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Sergeant Jay A. Thomas, a member of the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Band, plays "Taps" for Staff Sgt. Wallace G. Virgin, an instructor at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training, during a memorial service at Memorial Chapel Aug. 23. Virgin enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1996, and trained as a helicopter mechanic with Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-302. Throughout his career he served with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-466, the 31 Marine Expeditionary Unit, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262 and HMH-361. The Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and their sons, Ty and Jayden.



Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

Marines attached to Special Purpose MAGTAF Katrina participate in a clean-up of the debris left from Hurricane Katrina that devastated the gulf coast region of the United States.

The hand of God

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

No one could have expected that it would be this bad. The winds grew in their intensity, the levees broke and the city transformed into a nightmare Atlantis. The loss of life and the titanic property damage have created a "Mad Max" landscape in an era of unprecedented prosperity.

It's only natural that the victims of Hurricane Katrina and their fellow citizens around the nation ask, "Why?" Surrounded by what used to be their home, gathered with what is left of their family, it has become American to seek accountability -- "Who did this to us, who is responsible?"

Adding jet fuel to an already raging fire, the national media has spends 24 hours a day beaming images of tragedy and suffering around the globe, screaming at the top of their lungs that America has failed, that its people watched in silence as others died and its government has turned a cold shoulder.

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned and Katrina raged across homes and lives like a runaway locomotive. Like other natural disasters before, relief efforts began in earnest with the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. But, the scope of the tragedy was not readily apparent; the resources necessary to deal with it were not in place.

No one could fathom one

of America's largest cities being wiped away by flood waters.

In the last few days, however, it is the relief effort that has gained in strength. Yet, the enthusiasm to help, the good feeling that comes from lending a garden hose to a neighbor whose house is burning to the ground, is tempered by the second guessing of government intentions and the accusations of racial injustice.

Like many Americans, I'm ashamed that there exists a canyon of misunderstanding between black and white. It's naïve to think that racial discrimination is not a part of the media coverage and not a part of our everyday lives, but accusations that the government deliberately watched these families suffer and die are unreasonable.

There will be time, decades of time, to devote to writing books about what could have been done differently and discussing what we can do better to ensure that a disaster of this magnitude can be managed better.

However, our government does not command the hand of God, our government can not make hurricanes change direction and our government cannot and has not ignored the suffering of thousands of people.

America is coming to the aid and comfort of its brothers and sisters that now find themselves homeless and dispirited. The timetable no longer matters; we are all here now. What more can we do?

FACES OF THE FALLEN

“I fear that all I have done is awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve.”

Admiral Yamamoto after the Pearl Harbor attack

"You can be sure that the American spirit will prevail over this tragedy."

Colin Powell

“War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing.”

George W. Bush

"Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror. The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness and a quiet, unyielding anger."

George W. Bush

“There is no compromise possible with such people, no meeting of minds, no point of understanding with such terror. Just a choice: defeat it or be defeated by it. And defeat it we must.”

British Prime Minister Tony Blair

“Rejoice O young man in thy youth...”

Ecclesiastes

“The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address

“The bravery of our men and women in uniform, and their resolve, remain the world's most powerful weapon against terrorism.”

Mark Warner

“If there must be trouble let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.”

Thomas Paine

“They have not wanted Peace at all; they have wanted to be spared war -- as though the absence of war was the same as peace.”

Dorothy Thompson



26th MEU completes operations in CENTCOM

Capt. Will Klumpp
contributor

ABOARD USS KEARSARGE -- The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) moved one step closer to home Aug. 28, as the ships of the Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike group transited the Suez Canal and entered the Mediterranean Sea.

As the MEU departed U.S. Central Command's area of operations, it also relinquished its responsibility as Central Command's strategic reserve, a role it assumed in late April.

The 26th MEU (SOC) stood watch as the reserve but did not stand idly by. The accomplishments of the MEU while in Central Command's area of responsibility were varied, spanning nine countries including Djibouti, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and

Jordan.

The MEU entered the Arabian Gulf in early May, preparing to conduct missions in support of Exercise Eagle Resolve, conducted in Doha, Qatar. The exercise was based on a scenario designed to validate the nation's incidence response and management in preparation for the Asian Games in 2006.

"The significant aspects of the exercise were building relationships and validating procedures to augment and support the Qataris," said Lt. Col. James R. Brown, III, 26th MEU executive officer.

During Operation Sea Horse, MEU forces comprised primarily of Battalion Landing Team 2/8 conducted missions to detect and deter illicit cross-border activities in southern Iraq.

Marines were also sent to provide security and engineering support at a detainment facility



Cpl. Eric R. Martin

Lance Cpl. Gary R. Nichols of 3rd Platoon, Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Bn., 8th Marines, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), fires an AT4 at an old tank during fire and maneuver training July 18 at a range near Camp Bucca, Iraq

ty in southeastern Iraq.

Throughout the course of the distributed ground operations, the MEU's aviation combat element flew dozens of fixed-wing and rotary-wing sorties that moved critical personnel, parts and supplies to and from every location where MEU units were conducting missions. Additionally, the pilots and crews from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162 (Reinforced) flew numerous sorties in support of Combined Task Force-58, who was responsible for maritime security and interdiction operations in the northern Arabian Gulf.

Marines from the MEU's ground combat element, BLT 2/8, joined with the Jordanian 40th Infantry Brigade to conduct a series of training evolutions including several live-fire events. Meanwhile, many of the jets, helicopters and personnel from HMM-162 supported operations and shared aviation experiences with the Jordanian air forces at an air base in central Jordan.

A rocket attack Aug. 19 did nothing to hamper the exercise. The ships of the Kearsarge Strike Group that appeared to be the targets of the attack simply took up less vulnerable positions a few miles from shore in the Gulf of Aqaba and continued to support the exercise.

The exercise concluded with a coordinated bi-lateral field training exercise that included close-air support from HMM-162 and a Jordanian and Marine, combined motorized and mechanized armor attack

on two separate objectives.

Infinite Moonlight would be the final operation for the MEU while supporting Central Command.

Back in April, the 26th MEU entered what Qualls described as a particularly challenging area of operations, but the hard work of the Marines and Sailors ensured that no challenge would hinder the unit's success while in Central Command's area of responsibility.

"I'm proud of how this MEU interfaced and operated in a highly dynamic environment, with multiple staffs - both joint and coalition - to accomplish a diverse set of objectives, many simultaneously," said Qualls.

After nearly five months, the accomplishments of the unit throughout the region are substantial, but Qualls said there was one operation that particularly typified the 26th MEU.

"If I had to single out our most significant operation in Central Command, it would be Operation Sea Horse in southeastern Iraq. Deploying forces from the sea hundreds of miles into austere regions, logistically sustaining those forces, providing intelligence fusion and rapidly integrating into a coalition environment wrought with complexity and tactical uncertainty represented a formidable achievement and was most representative of the mettle of this team. The planning agility and overall fusion of the entire (Marine Air/Ground Task Force) was at its pinnacle during these operations."

"I'm most proud of the degree of flexibility and professionalism that each Marine and sailor has displayed during the conduct of dispersed and distributed operations. An organization cannot have a span of influence this wide without a high degree of small unit leadership, individual accountability and overall professionalism," Qualls added.

Although forces deployed to the many operating locations ashore were key in carrying out each successful mission, Qualls said it was the entire MEU and ESG team that ensured the current record of accomplishments.

"While many of our objectives were conducted away from the ships, the preponderance of our accomplishments could not have been achieved without the logistical, intelligence and aviation teamwork of our afloat home plate--the Kearsarge ESG," he said.

As the MEU re-enters the Mediterranean Sea, it shifts focus to operations with Sixth Fleet and preparations for the voyage home.

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Reports

On Aug. 21, a victim was shot in the leg during an attempted armed robbery.

The victim stated that he was at an ATM located somewhere on Western Boulevard when a black Chevy Suburban containing four black males pulled up. One black male got out of the vehicle and asked him if he wanted to buy some jewelry.

The victim stated he was not interested then he ran and was chased by the suspect. The victim said he fell on the ground and the black male demanded his wallet.

Victim stated that the suspect checked his wallet and threw it back at him as it contained no money, and then the suspect shot him in the leg.

Victim said a Hispanic male driving a black pick-up truck refused to take him all the way to the hospital but dropped him off near it.

If you have any information about this incident, call the Crime Stoppers 24 hour hot line at 938-3273.

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New football coach spices up team, tributes Clubber Lang

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Salt and pepper. That's how Sgt. Anthony Cremeans describes his team. The Station Football Team is dedicating the upcoming season to two common table condiments, salt and pepper.

Last year, the New River Football Team went undefeated through the regular season but was eliminated early in the playoffs. It was a defeat the team compares to a mouth chock full with the burning flavor of bile.

"Let's put it this way, that loss was like each one of the players got a handful of salt shoved in their mouths," Cremeans said. "And, we're going to make sure we bring some pepper this season."

One of the ways the rookie coach has been spicing up the team

is by changing practice routines. "He's been conditioning the hell out of us," said Staff Sgt. Brian Walker, team captain and weak side linebacker. "In the past, most of the practice was running plays but we've been conditioning a lot more, which is only making us stronger."

In addition to shaking things up at practice, Cremeans has added a great deal of organization to the team while managing to retain the cut-throat, defensive tactics that helped lead to last year's successful season, said team captains Sgt. Joshua Cook, linebacker, and Lance Cpl. Mike Welch, defensive end.

Equipped with desire, revenge and bad disposition, the team has only one prediction to make regarding the approaching season – pain, for their opponents.

"We're not planning to walk away as losers," said Cremeans.

"We've got new home and away jerseys, so not only are we going to play 110 percent but we'll look 110 percent."

"This is the Station's team, we'll win as an entire base," added assistant coach Cpl. Thomas Mangus. "Our team is like thunder and lightning, we hit hard and move fast."

Although there is no date set for the first game, the coaches and team encourage Station servicemembers to come support the team.

"This is more entertaining than sitting in a barracks room," said Mangus. "We have a good team with a lot of hard hitters."

But, perhaps the team's most intriguing element lies in the salty Marines who went home early last year and have returned with one objective on their minds: Victory at all costs.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Sergeant Anthony Cremeans, head coach for the New River Football Team, speaks to his team after practice at the football field Aug. 29. Although this is Cremeans' first year as head coach, he said he is confident the team will have a successful season. He also said the team is filled with spite after their early elimination in the playoffs last season.

John Gunn's military sports highlights: Denver Broncos prefer to deal their running backs

Buy 'em, collect 'em, trade 'em with your friends. This works best with trading cards, bobbleheads and assorted memorabilia. But, Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan prefers to deal in running backs, USA Today reports.

Marine veteran Mike Anderson and Tatum Bell may both play roles in the Broncos' running attack by the end of the season.

The Broncos never expend a first-round draft choice on a back, preferring to shop the NFL's discount racks. They've had a different leading rusher in five of the past six seasons and traded two of them. Yet, they never fail to move the ball on the ground. In Shanahan's ten seasons in Denver, the Broncos have been ranked in the top ten in rushing nine times, leading the NFL in 1996 and finishing second in 1998 and 2003 and third in 2000.

Plug in a back and the Broncos will continue to pound away, right?

"I think that's a big misconception," says offensive tackle Matt Lepsis, a nine-year veteran. "I think we have great running backs and we have since I've been here, and we also have a good system. So, that combination really helps in having a good running game."

If there's greatness in these backs, and who had ever heard of Reuben Droughns and Mike Anderson and Olandis Gary and Terrell Davis before they burst to prominence? It stems from a running style demanded by Shanahan, said USA Today.

"You only get one cut, they stress that here," says Anderson, currently the starting tailback in a backfield filled with contenders. "You make a decision, and you go full-speed with it."

Anderson, who turns 32 this month, missed all of last season with torn groin muscles suffered in the final preseason game. He rushed for 1,487 yards and was named NFL Rookie of the Year in 2000, but the Broncos subsequently moved him to fullback. In 2004, they penciled him in to replace Clinton Portis, traded to the Washington Redskins for cornerback Champ Bailey.

They ultimately wound up with Droughns moving from fullback and gaining 1,240 yards, after rushing for 97 yards in four prior NFL seasons. But, when Droughns wanted his contract adjusted to match his new position, the Broncos allowed him to seek a trade and dispatched him to the Cleveland Browns.

Anderson, who recovered without surgery, says he never worried about regaining his position or competition from the Broncos' bevy of backs.

"No, I didn't think about that. My whole thought process was to get healthy and come back 100% and, wherever I fit in, I fit in."

A 26-21 preseason victory against the San Francisco 49ers showed Anderson in good form against the 49ers' first-string defense. He gained 39 yards on five rushes and caught a two-yard

touchdown pass.

Bell also ran well (11 carries for 62 yards), and Dayne, who excelled in the preseason opener against the Houston Texans, led all rushers with 87 yards on 18 carries. The Broncos ran for 266 yards on 47 attempts.

When playing against Indianapolis recently, Anderson rushed 13 times for 159 yards, including a 93-yard run and two TDs. He caught two passes for 20 yards. Denver won the preseason game, 37-24. The Broncos travel to Miami for the Sept. 11 season opener.

Other Marine veterans and sons are again competing in the NFL in 2005. Several Marines dropped out of the NFL during and after the 2002 season, and several after 2003, but the Corps still has veterans aboard during 2005, including: Ron Hudson, scout, Kansas City Chiefs; Dante Scarnecchia, assistant head coach-offensive line coach, New England Patriots; Mike Sweatman, special teams coordinator, N.Y. Giants; Steve Szabo, defensive backs coach, Buffalo Bills; Mike Wauflle, defensive line coach, N.Y. Giants; Ron Botchan, an NFL officiating supervisor; Frederick Smith, minority owner, Washington Redskins; Jack Bushofsky, special assistant to personnel, Washington Redskins; Bubba Tyer, director sports medicine, Washington Redskins; Chet Franklin,

Personnel Evaluator, Tampa Bay Buccaneers; Leo Carlin, director of ticket client relations, Philadelphia Eagles; Mike Anderson, running back, Denver Broncos; and Kurt Warner, quarterback, Arizona Cardinals -- his wife served in the

Corps.

Editor's Note: Gunn is an independent journalist and retired intelligence officer who wrote two books about Marines and their significance in football.

SMP to take v-ball tour



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Private First Class Steven Nelson (middle) and Lance Cpl. Michael Nelson (right), both Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air traffic controllers, defend their side of the volleyball court during the Single Marine Program volleyball tournament at the Station Marina Aug. 28. The tournament was held to assemble SMP volleyball team s that will tour various military installations to compete. According to Patrick Highers, the SMP director, the teams will be traveling to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., MCAS Beaufort, S.C., Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. Highers said the event, which also had free jet-ski's rental and food, was a success and he was able to compile a roster of approximately 40 Marines. For more information about the upcoming tour or to learn more about the Single Marine Program, contact Patrick Highers at 449-5846.



Lance Cpl. James D. Hamel

Lieutenant Col. Paul C. Merritt, commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron-272, stands before his Marines during a transfer of authority ceremony in Al Asad, Iraq. The "Untouchables" of '272 will provide aviation ground support for the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Wing support transfers hands at Al Asad

Lance Cpl. James D. Hamel
contributor

AL ASAD, Iraq -- Marines and Sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron-271 and MWSS-272 took part in a transfer of authority ceremony at Al Asad, Iraq, Aug. 29 at the headquarters for the wing support squadrons.

The ceremony was a formality, as the "Untouchables" of MWSS-272 had already assumed responsibility for some operations from '271's "Workhorses."

"Everybody's excited to be here and we're ready to roll," said Maj. Aaron W. Adams, executive officer of MWSS-272.

"We've been ready to go for quite some time," he added. "We've done a lot of training, culminating with Exercise Desert Talon (in Yuma, Ariz.) in June."

Sergeant Maj. Clarence W. Richardson, MWSS-272 squadron sergeant major, echoed that sentiment.

"We want to continue to build on the great reputation the 'Workhorses' have made," he said. "The 'Untouchables' are going to complete this mission leaning on their experience and training."

As a wing support squadron, MWSS-272 has one of the most diverse mission objectives of any unit aboard Al Asad.

"We provide aviation ground support for Al Asad and some of

the outlying forward operating bases," said Anderson. "That includes aircraft refueling, engineering, motor transport, explosive ordnance disposal, food service and communications."

The "Untouchables" also conduct convoy operations, a mission they trained extensively for during Exercise Desert Talon.

While complicated and difficult, the mission of MWSS-272 was aided by having solid groundwork laid by MWSS-271, who completed their deployment safely and efficiently.

"The (commanding officer) has a saying, 'We get it done,'" said Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, sergeant major of MWSS-271 and a Boston native. "Well, we got it done, and we did it safely. That really sums up our squadron."

"We've been busy within Al Asad and with missions outside the wire," she added. "The key is keeping the Marines focused, treating every day as if it were day one."

Focus will certainly be one of the keys to MWSS-272's success in Iraq, but Anderson knows his squadron has the experience and preparation to meet its goals.

"We've got some pretty tough shoes to fill," he said. "But, we've done extensive pre-deployment training and our Marines and Sailors are ready get the job done here."

Are there any saved rounds?

Lt. Mike Michener
command chaplain

At the end of each firing detail, the range safety officer always asks, “Are there any saved rounds?”

I once had a commanding officer and an executive officer who asked the same question at the end of our staff meetings. The reason these questions are asked is because it is often those unexpended rounds of ammunition that are most dangerous.

Once “cease fire” has been declared on the range, everyone relaxes and assumes no extra shots will be taken. Occasionally, someone forgets they have an extra bullet or two and a weapon accidentally discharges without regard to the direction their muzzle is pointed. People get hurt when these accidents happen.

The CO and XO ask these questions because they know surprises can be dangerous. They would rather be prepared for events and issues than hear about them after the fact. After the fact only allows for damage control. Knowing issues and events beforehand allows for damage prevention.

This same kind of principle is valid in marriages. All good marriages have times when disagreements occur. How those disagreements are handled is crucial to enduring relationships. It is appropriate to discuss, argue and on occasion, even yell in the midst of a conflict.

But once the conflict is

addressed and resolved, it should be forgotten. When either party brings up an old issue that should have been forgotten months or even years ago, it is like a saved round in the chamber of the weapon that discharges in who- knows- what direction.

When I am foolish enough to bring up something my wife and I discussed months ago and she thought it was resolved and I didn’t, it damages our marriage.

“Saved rounds” in a marriage are never appropriate. It is much wiser and safer to deal with everything that may be bugging me at the time rather than bring it up several weeks later. My wife and I don’t always agree. She is often right about things and I have to either be man enough to admit I’m wrong or simply agree to disagree. If I don’t agree but acquiesce to her point of view, then I also cannot allow that issue to be ammunition in a later disagreement.

When our disagreements occur, the ensuing discussion and argument should be limited to the issue at hand rather than something from the past.

The MAG 29 chaplains are co-sponsoring with the base chapel a marriage retreat called “Love, Sex and Marriage.”

One of the great things about the marriage retreat is that it gives couples tools that help diffuse those unexploded bombs and deal with “saved rounds” before they reach the point of danger.

It is designed to enhance marriages and build better bonds with

your spouse.

One Marine spoke of a previous marriage retreat with these words, “Although my wife and I have a good marriage, we both are smart enough to know that there are a lot of ways that it can get better.

Anything worth while is worth improving and working on, especially communication with your lifelong partner and friend. I would strongly recommend this program to anyone and everyone who is serious about their marriage. It is amazing what this one short weekend can do for you.”

I often say to couples, “I want to give you as many tools as possible to grow old and slobbery together.”

Let’s take care of those “saved rounds.”

Call my office and let’s get you scheduled for your marriage retreat Sept. 16th and 17th. It is free but will likely pay big dividends.

Memorial Chapel services

Sunday Services
Catholic 9 a.m.
Protestant 11 a.m.

For more information, call the Memorial Chapel at 449-6801.



The Marine Aircraft Group-29 Chaplain’s office invites all Station personnel to attend

One Nation Under God

A patriotic musical written by Randy Vader, Jay Rouse and Camp Kirkland that will lead you to praise the greatness of God and challenge you to seek God’s blessings for our nation

WHEN: This Sunday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. **WHERE:** At the Memorial Chapel

This event is being presented by the community choir comprised of membership from : Angola FWB, Bethel Presbyterian, Bethlehem Baptist, Bethlehem FWB, Beulaville PFWB, Cabin Missionary Baptist, Catherine Lake Baptist, Friendly Community Baptist, Grace Covenant, Infant of Prague, Mount Zion FWB, Richlands First Baptist, Richlands First Christian, Richlands United Methodist, River of Life Worship Center, Sand Hill Primitive Baptist, Sarecta FWB, Sharon Baptist, Springfield PFWB and Victory FWB.

Come see and celebrate God’s providence and protection presented in music and drama that will touch your heart.

Free admission

Safety Snippets: Portable Generators

Using portable generators can be hazardous if used improperly. The hazards exist in the carbon monoxide and the risk of electrocution from connecting the generator to the home electrical wiring system.

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning:

*Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages.

*Only operate the generator outdoors in a well ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow.

To avoid electrocution:

*Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy duty, outdoor rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load.

*Observe the generator manufacturer’s instructions for safe operation.

*Do not plug the generator into a wall outlet.

*If connecting the generator into the house wiring is necessary, have a qualified electrician hook up the standby electrical system, or have the local utility install a linking device if available.

Marine and Family Service Center

Retired Affairs

Each Wednesday and Friday
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The retired affairs representative can provide retired service-members and their spouses with information regarding benefits, entitlements, privileges and legal assistance.

No appointments are necessary to attend this class, however guests can call for information.

Play Morning

Each Thursday
9:30 to 11 a.m.

Youth Community Center

Play morning is a time for mom and dad to have fun with their children who are age six and under.

For more information, please call New Parent Support Program at 451-5286.

Keystone Meetings for Teens

Each 1st and 3rd Friday
6 to 7 p.m.

A Boys and Girls Club Program that offers children an opportunity to gain leadership skills, participate in and earn community service hours as well as social activities.

Come voice suggestions and plan events. On the third Friday of each month, teenagers can select a prevention topic to discuss.

Welcome Aboard Brief

Sept. 13
8 to 11:30 a.m.

If new to the Jacksonville area, attend the Welcome Aboard Brief at the Enlisted Club.

Following the briefs and information fair, stay for a free lunch and an afternoon bus tour of the

area.

Stress Management, Part II - Dealing With Difficult People

Sept. 13
1:30 to 4 p.m.

Attend this second part in a four part series and learn practical techniques to deal with difficult people.

Transition Assistance Program

Sept. 14 and 15
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A mandated, two-day career options workshop, which helps assess knowledge, skills and abilities and apply military acquired skills in the civilian employment sector.

Pre-registration required through the unit transition counselor.

Stress Management, Part III - Conflict Resolution

Sept. 20
1:30 to 4 p.m.

The third class in a four part series focuses on handling and resolving conflicts both in the home and in the workplace.

Pre-Separation Brief

Sept. 21

This mandated brief covers all required information for the servicemember and spouse separating from the military way of life.

Pre-registration mandatory through the unit transition counselor.

Smooth Move Workshop

Sept. 21

Attend a Smooth Move Workshop and obtain valuable

information from the experts regarding permanent change of station moves.

Topics include travel and pay entitlements, movement of household goods, legal, TRICARE, overseas screening and more.

Stress Management, Part IV - Anger Control

Sept. 27
1:30 to 4 p.m.

Attend the fourth class in a four part series, and learn to identify anger styles and find practical ways to manage emotions.

For more information about programs or to pre-register for one of the classes, call 449-6110/6185 or visit our Web site at <http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/mcas-nr/fsc/fschome.htm>.

Animal owners scoop up freebies



Heather Caruso
contributor

Dogs will be wagging their tails and cats will be purring at the Annual Pet Fair presented by the Camp Lejeune Veterinary Treatment Facility Saturday at W.P.T. Hill field from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year the fair holds a special treat for servicemember's pets in need of vaccinations and identification microchips.

Doctor Donald Allen, a small animal veterinarian and Air Force reserve public health officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, has been working with the base Veterinary Treatment Facility located in Tarawa Terrace to bring free vaccinations and additional aid as an effort to show his and his wife's gratitude for Camp Lejeune Marines' service in Iraq.

"(Dr. Allen) wanted to do something for the Marines since they are the ones most affected by this war," said Army Capt. Genevieve Vega, chief of the Camp Lejeune

branch of Veterinary Services. "He is providing free vaccines for service member's pets as a way to promote animal health."

There will be a lot of exciting animal activities going on, such as pet contest that anyone may enter – anything from biggest and smallest pets to obedience and look-alike contests – as well as demonstrations from military working dogs and chances to adopt a pet through the Carolina Animal Protection Society based out of Onslow County.

Additionally, several pet related vendors will be on hand with free giveaways.

The base Veterinary Treatment Facility offers pet vaccines and many other services to military personnel at discounted prices, and this is a unique opportunity Vega was presented with when Allen offered free vaccines.

"When money is tight, the pets seem to get the lowest priority," said Allen, who remembers eating a lot of peanut butter as an enlisted airman in the late 1960s.

Allen has a fondness for 2d Marine Division and authored "Tarawa — the Aftermath," an account of the days leading up to and following 2d Marine Division's

attack on Tarawa during World War II. His fondness for 2d Marine Division and pets is what led him to Camp Lejeune.

"Pets are very, very beneficial. They give unconditional love and aren't judgmental. Of course, that requires on the owners part, to take care of them and vaccinate them," said Allen.

Additionally, pet owners worried about losing their feline or canine friends can purchase a discounted identification microchip for \$17 at the fair, so pets lost without their tags can still be identified by shelters. Both the free vaccines and discounted microchips are available to valid military ID holders.

"I really appreciate the guys and girls that are serving. They are doing a great job over there, and I want to help them as much as possible, especially the Marines," said Allen, who is traveling with his wife to Camp Lejeune to distribute the vaccines.

Many of the vaccines and supplies were donated by veterinary supply representatives, and an additional 600 doses were purchased by Allen, who hopes to see a great turnout. A rain date is scheduled for Sept. 17.

"If we can save a Marine family 20, 40, 50 bucks, then that is great. That saves money for them to use on other important stuff," said Allen.



Carolina living: Mothers find boost among local peers

Local moms gather together, offer support



Heather Caruso
contributor

If you realize your days are filled with dirty diapers, toddler tantrums, cracker crumbs, baby talk and a lack of sleep, you might wish you had a regular break for adult interaction.

Four years ago, mothers within the Jacksonville community decided to start a community program called Mothers of Preschoolers to help fill the void of adult interaction during the day and gain advice from other mothers.

MOPS, a program for mothers of newborns to 5-year-old tikes, meets across the United States and in 29 countries to celebrate the joys of motherhood and provide encouragement when parenting challenges creep up, according to their official Web site.

MOPS could be called a support group, but that term sometimes carries negative connotations. The mothers simply gather twice a month to play games, make simple craft projects and gab with one

another about motherhood, while their preschoolers play nearby in their own play area.

"MOPS allows you to meet new people and really develop friendships because you are all at the same stage of life," said Beth Witman, MOPS coordinator at Jacksonville Bible Church.

During their 10 a.m. get-togethers every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, the mothers enjoy brunch while listening to knowledgeable speakers cover subjects such as how to stay active with kids, initiating holiday traditions, cleaning and organizational skills, surviving the preschool years and more.

The current MOPS participants have organized a MomFest infor-

mation fair Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Jacksonville Baptist Church lawn for parents of preschoolers to learn more about MOPS and what is available for them and their preschooler in Jacksonville. Organized by moms, they know what information other moms in the community would like to know.

The fair will include child seat safety checks and fingerprint packets prepared by the police department, as well as valuable information for mothers and fun activities for children.

So far, 25 vendors offering services to parents and preschoolers will set up booths and many will offer free giveaways.

For more information on MOPS or MomFest, call Beth Witman at 353-1184.



Station Theater Movies

Sept. 7 - 21

Wed. Sept. 7	9 a.m.	Wedding Crashers	R
	7 p.m.	Wedding Crashers	R
Fri. Sept. 9	6:30 p.m.	Bad News Bears	PG-13
	9:30 p.m.	Wedding Crashers	R
Sat. Sept. 10	6:30 p.m.	Bad News Bears	PG-13
	9:30 p.m.	Wedding Crashers	R
Sun. Sept. 11	3 p.m.	Bad News Bears	PG-13
	6 p.m.	Hustle and Flow	R
Mon. Sept. 12	7 p.m.	Hustle and Flow	R
Wed. Sept. 14	9 a.m.	Must Love Dogs	PG-13
	7 p.m.	Must Love Dogs	PG-13
Fri. Sept. 16	7 p.m.	Sky High	PG
	9:30 p.m.	Hustle and Flow	R
Sat. Sept. 17	7 p.m.	Sky High	PG
	9:30 p.m.	Must Love Dogs	PG-13
Sun. Sept. 18	3 p.m.	Sky High	PG
	6 p.m.	Must Love Dogs	PG-13
Mon. Sept. 19	7 p.m.	Stealth	PG-13
Wed. Sept. 21	9 a.m.	Deuce Bigalow:	
		Male Gigolo	R
	7 p.m.	Deuce Bigalow:	
		Male Gigolo	R



The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins. Movies and times are subject to change.

For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.



A \$1 admission fee is charged for ages seven and above.